

Clean Copy of the Amended Claims:

I Claim:

1. (Amended) A method for determining if proposed modifications to existing work are supportive of and consistent with an entity's strategic objective, comprising the steps of:
 - a. defining the strategic objectives;
 - b. prioritizing said strategic objectives;
 - c. selecting one of said strategic objectives to be the primary strategic objective;
 - d. selecting and saving a strategic objective goal chosen by said entity for said primary strategic objective;
 - e. listing the possible measures for said primary strategic objective;
 - f. selecting one of said possible measures for said primary strategic objective as the primary strategic objective measure;
 - g. modifying an original database to assume that the work yet to be completed has been completed over a planning period and saving said modified databases as a new database;
 - h. calculate a first expected strategic objective results, hereinafter first expected results, using said new databases as measured by said primary strategic objective measure over said planning period and saving said first expected results;
 - i. create an interactive database version of said original databases wherein users are allowed to modify said interactive databases;

- j. use said modified interactive databases to calculate a second expected strategic objective results, hereinafter second expected results, caused by said interactive database modifications as measured by said primary strategic objective measure for said planning period and saving said second expected results;
- k. compare said first expected results with said second expected results to determine if said modifications to said interactive database caused an improvement, a deterioration or was impact neutral to said strategic objective goal and saving said comparison of said first and second expected results;
- l. save said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison of said first expected results and said second expected results was an improvement to achieving said strategic objective goal;
- m. do not save said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or result of said comparison of said first expected results and said second expected results was a detriment to achieving said strategic objective goal;
- n. save or not save, the choice of saving or not saving to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison of said first expected results and said second expected was impact neutral to achieving said strategic objective goal; and

o. periodically save said modifications to said interactive database into said new database and into said interactive database if said modifications were stored in said original databases and repeating steps h, i, j, k, l, m, n and o above.

2. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method comprises said entity:

- a. identifying the tradeoffs to said primary strategic objective;
- b. prioritizing said tradeoffs;
- c. selecting the primary tradeoff from said prioritized tradeoffs;
- d. identifying the possible primary tradeoff measures;
- e. selecting a primary tradeoff measure from said possible primary tradeoff measures;
- f. selecting an allowable tradeoff threshold limit for said primary tradeoff measure and saving said allowable tradeoff threshold limit;
- g. calculate the first expected tradeoff results as measured by said primary tradeoff measure using said new databases and save said first expected tradeoff result;
- h. calculate the second expected tradeoff results as measured by said primary tradeoff measure using said modified interactive databases and save said second expected tradeoff result;
- i. compare said first expected tradeoff result with said second expected tradeoff result to determine if the modifications to said interactive databases caused an improvement, a deterioration or was impact neutral to said first tradeoff result and store said comparison

between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result;

j. save said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected result or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was an improvement to achieving said strategic objective goal and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result did not violate said allowable tradeoff threshold limit;

k. do not save said modification to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was a detriment to achieving said strategic objective goal or if said second tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result violated said allowable tradeoff threshold limit; and

l. save or not save, the choice of saving or not saving to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to achieving said strategic objective goal and if said second expected tradeoff results or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff threshold limit.

3. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method comprises said entity:

- a. setting an allowable range for said strategic objectives goal and saving said allowable strategic objective range;
- b. saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected result or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was an improvement to achieving said allowable strategic objective range;
- c. not saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was a detriment to achieving said allowable strategic objective range; and
- d. saving or not saving, the choice of saving or not saving to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to achieving said allowable strategic objective range.

4. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said method comprises said entity:

- a. setting an allowable range for said allowable tradeoff threshold limit and saving said allowable tradeoff threshold range;
- b. saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected result or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was an improvement to achieving said strategic objective goal and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result did not violate said allowable tradeoff threshold range;
- c. not saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was a detriment to achieving said strategic objective goal or if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result violated said allowable tradeoff threshold range; and
- d. saving or not saving, the choice of saving or not saving to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to achieving said strategic objective goal and if said second expected tradeoff results or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff threshold range.

5. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said method comprises said entity:

- a. setting an allowable range for said strategic objective goal and saving said allowable strategic objective range;
- b. setting an allowable range for said tradeoff threshold limit and storing said allowable tradeoff threshold range;
- c. saving said modifications to said interactive databases in said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was an improvement to achieving said allowable strategic objective range and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result did not violate said allowable tradeoff threshold range;
- d. not saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected result was a detriment to achieving said allowable strategic objective range or said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result violated said allowable tradeoff threshold range; and
- e. saving or not saving, the choice of saving or not saving to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second

expected results was impact neutral to achieving said allowable strategic objective range and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result were impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff threshold range.

6. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method comprises said entity:

- a. establishing and saving the different users and/or user levels for said entity and the different authority levels associated to each said user and/or said user level, said authority levels having associated with them an amount or magnitude of allowable strategic objective impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement;
- b. saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected result or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was an improvement to achieving said strategic objective goal and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact;
- c. not saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results

was a detriment to achieving said strategic objective goal or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact; and

d. saving or not saving, the choice of saving or not saving to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to achieving said strategic objective goal and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral based upon said allowable strategic objective impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level.

7. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said method comprises said entity:

a. establishing and saving the different users and/or user levels for said entity and the different authority levels associated to each said user and/or said user level, said authority levels having associated with them an amount or magnitude of allowable strategic objective impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement and an

amount or magnitude of allowable tradeoff impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement;

b. saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was an improvement to achieving said strategic objective goal and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result did not violate said allowable tradeoff threshold limit and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact and if the amount or magnitude of said second tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first tradeoff result and said second tradeoff result was within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact;

c. not saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was a deterioration to achieving said strategic objective goal or if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result violated said allowable tradeoff threshold limit or if the amount or

magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact or if the amount or magnitude of said second tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first tradeoff result and said second tradeoff result was not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact; and

d. saving or not saving, the choice saving or not saving to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to achieving said strategic objective goal and if said second tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff threshold limit and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral based upon said allowable strategic objective impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level and if the amount or magnitude of said second tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first tradeoff result and said second tradeoff result is impact neutral based upon said allowable tradeoff

impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level.

8. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said method comprises said entity:

- a. establishing and saving the different users and/or user levels for said entity and the different authority levels associated to each said user and/or said user level, said authority levels having associated with them an amount or magnitude of allowable strategic objective impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement;
- b. saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results falls within said allowable strategic objective range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact;
- c. not saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results falls outside of said allowable strategic objective range or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and

said second expected results are not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact; and

d. saving or not saving, the choice of saving or not saving to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral to said allowable strategic objective range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral based upon said allowable strategic objective impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level.

9. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 4 , wherein said method comprises said entity:

a. establishing and saving the different users and/or user levels for said entity and the different authority levels associated to each said user and/or said user level, said authority levels having associated with them an amount or magnitude of allowable strategic objective impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement and an amount or magnitude of allowable tradeoff impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement;

b. saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison

between said first expected results and said second expected results was an improvement to achieving said strategic objective goal and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result did not violate said allowable tradeoff range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact;

c. not saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or if said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was a detriment to achieving said strategic objective goal or if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result violated said allowable tradeoff range or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic

objective impact or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact; and

d. saving or not saving, the choice of saving or not saving to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to said strategic objective goal and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result is impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral based upon said allowable strategic objective impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result is impact neutral based upon said allowable tradeoff impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level.

10. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein said method comprises said entity_:

- a. establishing and saving the different users and/or user levels for said entity and the different authority levels associated to each said user and/or said user level, said authority levels having associated with them an amount or magnitude of allowable strategic objective impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement and an amount or magnitude of allowable tradeoff impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement;
- b. saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results falls within said allowable strategic objective range and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result did not violate said allowable tradeoff range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact;

c. not saving said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results falls outside of said allowable strategic objective range or if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result violated said allowable tradeoff range or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact; and

d. saving or not saving, the choice of saving or not saving to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to said allowable strategic objective range and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results

or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral based upon said allowable strategic objective impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result are impact neutral based upon said allowable tradeoff impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level.

11. (Amended) A method as in any one of the preceding claims, in which said modifications to said original databases are tracked by each said user, and said improvements and detriments to said strategic objective target values and/or said tradeoff limits are used to tangibly evaluate said user's performance and/or used to compensate and/or reward said user for supporting said strategic objective of the company.

12. (Amended) A apparatus for determining if proposed modifications to existing work are supportive of and consistent with an entity's primary strategic objective, wherein said apparatus includes:

- a. user interface devices and modules operatively coupled to said apparatus;
- b. a memory that stores databases and computer-readable code;

- c. said databases including an original database, new database, interactive version of said original database and modified interactive database;
- d. a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said code configured to:
 - i. receive, load and store a desired strategic objective goal, chosen by said entity, for said entity's primary strategic objective into said memory or storage medium of said apparatus, said apparatus containing or having access to said entity's said databases and Management Information System (hereinafter MIS);
 - ii. receive, load and store said entity's primary strategic objective measure for said primary strategic objective in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus;
 - iii. modify the existing work stored in said original database and not yet completed to be assumed to be completed over a planning period and storing said modified existing work that is assumed completed in a new database in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus;
 - iv. execute said MIS, or a duplicate version of said MIS, over said planning period using said new database and said primary strategic objective measure to calculate a first expected strategic objective result, hereinafter first expected result, and store said

first expected result in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus;

v. allow said users to interact with said interactive database version of said original databases in order to modify said interactive databases and store said modified interactive databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus;

vi. execute said MIS, or a duplicate version of said MIS over said planning period using said modified interactive databases and said primary strategic objective measure to calculate a second expected strategic objective results, hereinafter second expected results, and store said second expected results in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus;

vii. compare said first expected results with said second expected results to determine if said modifications to said modified interactive database when compared to said new databases resulted in improvements, deterioration or was impact neutral to said strategic objective goal and store and/or output said comparison to said memory, said storage medium and/or output devices of said apparatus;

viii. over-write said original databases by loading and storing said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases and/or said MIS in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second

expected results indicated improvements over said first expected results to said strategic objective goal;

ix. prevent said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus from being over-written with said modifications in said modified interactive databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results indicated a deterioration from said first expected results to said strategic objective goal; and

x. either over-write or not over-write said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus, the choice of over-writing or not over-writing to be determined by said entity, with said modifications to said modified interactive databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral to said first expected results and to said strategic objective goal.

13. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein said computer-readable code is configured to:

- a. receive, load and store in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus a said entity's primary tradeoff measure chosen by said entity;
- b. receive, load and store in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus an allowable tradeoff threshold limit chosen by said entity;

- c. execute said MIS, or a duplicate version of said MIS, to calculate the first expected tradeoff result by using said new database for said planning period and said primary tradeoff measure, and load and store in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus said first expected tradeoff result;
- d. execute said MIS, or a duplicate version of said MIS, to calculate the second expected tradeoff result, using said modified interactive databases for said planning period and said primary tradeoff measure, and load and store in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus said second expected tradeoff result;
- e. compare said first expected tradeoff result with said second expected tradeoff result to determine the tradeoff impact said modifications to said interactive databases had on said first expected tradeoff result and load and store said tradeoff impact into said memory or storage medium of said apparatus;
- f. over-write said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus with said modifications to said interactive databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results indicated improvements over said first expected results to achieving the strategic objective goal and if said tradeoff impact or said second expected tradeoff result does not violate said allowable tradeoff threshold limit;
- g. prevent said modifications to said interactive databases from over-writing said original databases in said memory or storage medium of

said apparatus if said second expected results said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results indicated deterioration from said first expected results to said strategic objective goal or if said tradeoff impact or said second expected tradeoff result violates said allowable tradeoff threshold limit; and

h. over-write or not over-write said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus, the choice of over-writing or not over-writing to be determined by said entity, with said modifications to said modified interactive databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral to said first expected results and to said strategic objective goal and if said tradeoff impact or said second expected tradeoff result is impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff threshold limit.

14. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein said computer-readable code is configured to:

a. receive, load and store preset allowable ranges, as determined by said entity, for said strategic objectives goal in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus that contains or has access to said databases and said MIS;

b. over-write said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus with said modifications to said interactive databases if said second expected result or said comparison between

said first expected results and said second expected results falls within said allowable strategic objective range as determined by said entity;

c. prevent said modifications to said interactive databases from over-writing said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results falls outside of said strategic objective measure allowable range; and

d. over-write or not over-write said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus, the choice of over-writing or not over-writing to be determined by said entity, with said modifications to said interactive databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to said strategic objective allowable range.

15. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 13, wherein said computer-readable code is configured to:

- a. receive, load and store preset ranges, as determined by said entity, for said allowable tradeoff threshold limit in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus;
- b. over-write said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus with said modifications to said interactive databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results indicated improvements over said first expected results and to said strategic

objective target value and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result did not violate said allowable tradeoff threshold range;

c. prevent said modifications to said interactive databases from over-writing said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results indicated deterioration to said first expected results and to said strategic objective goal or if said second expected tradeoff results or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result violates said allowable tradeoff threshold range; and

d. over-write or not over-write said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus, the choice of over-writing or not over-writing to be determined by said entity, with said modifications to said interactive databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral to said first expected results and to said strategic objective goal and if said second tradeoff results or comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result were impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff threshold range.

16. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 13, wherein said computer-readable code is configured to:

- a. receive, load and store preset ranges, as determined by said entity, for said allowable tradeoff threshold limit in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus that contains or has access to said entity's said databases and said MIS;
- b. receive, load and store preset ranges, as determined by said entity, for said strategic objective goal in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus;
- c. over-write said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus with said modifications to said interactive databases if said second expected result or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results falls within said allowable strategic objective range and if said second expected tradeoff result said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result did not violate said tradeoff threshold measure range;
- d. preventing said modifications to said interactive databases from over-writing said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results falls outside of said allowable strategic objective range or if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result violated said tradeoff threshold measure range; and

e. over-write or not over-write said original databases in said memory or storage medium of said apparatus, the choice of over-writing or not over-writing to be determined by said entity, with said modifications to said interactive databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to said allowable strategic objective range and if said second expected tradeoff results or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result were impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff threshold range.

17. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein said code is configured to:

- a. receive, load and store differing users and/or user levels for said entity and the different authority levels associated to each said user and/or said user level, said authority levels having associated with them an amount or magnitude of allowable strategic objective impact that a said user or said user level is authorized to implement;
- b. store said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected result or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was an improvement to achieving said strategic objective goal and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are within said authority level

of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact;

c. not storing said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or the comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was a detriment to achieving said strategic objective goal or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact; and

d. storing or not storing, the choice of storing or not storing to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to achieving said strategic objective goal and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral based upon said allowable strategic objective impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level.

18. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 13, wherein said computer-readable code is configured to:

a. load and store differing authority levels associated with an amount or magnitude of allowable impact to said strategic objective measure, as measured by said primary strategic objective measure, that different said users, or users levels, are authorized to direct said computer-readable code to over-write said original databases with said modified interactive databases based upon said authority level of said user, or said user level, and based upon said allowable impact associated with said authority level as compared to either said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results and with an amount or magnitude of allowable impact to said tradeoff measure, as measured by said primary tradeoff measure, that different said users or said user levels, are authorized to direct said computer-readable code to over-write said original databases with said modified interactive databases based upon said authority level of said user, or said user level, and based upon said amount of allowable impact associated with said authority level as compared to either the second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff results and said second expected tradeoff results;

b. storing said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was an improvement to achieving said strategic objective goal and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result

did not violate said allowable tradeoff threshold limit and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact and if the amount or magnitude of said second tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first tradeoff result and said second tradeoff result was within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact;

c. not storing said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was a deterioration to achieving said strategic objective goal or if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result violated said allowable tradeoff threshold limit or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact or if the amount or magnitude of said second tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first tradeoff result and said second tradeoff result was not within said authority level of said

user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact;
and

d. storing or not storing, the choice storing or not storing to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to achieving said strategic objective goal and if said second tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff threshold limit and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral based upon said allowable strategic objective impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level and if the amount or magnitude of said second tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first tradeoff result and said second tradeoff result is impact neutral based upon said allowable tradeoff impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level.

19. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein said computer-readable code is configured to:

a. load and store differing authority levels associated with an amount or magnitude of allowable impact, as measured by said primary

strategic objective measure, that different said users, or users levels, are authorized to direct said computer-readable code to over-write said original databases with said modified interactive databases based upon said authority level of said user, or said user level, and said allowable impact associated with said authority level as compared to either said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results;

b. storing said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results falls within said allowable strategic objective range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact;

c. not storing said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results falls outside of said allowable strategic objective range or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact; and

d. storing or not storing, the choice of storing or not storing to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral to said allowable strategic objective range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral based upon said allowable strategic objective impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level.

20. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein said computer-readable code is configured to:

a. load and store differing authority levels associated with an amount or magnitude of allowable impact to said strategic objective measure, as measured by said primary strategic objective measure, that different said users, or users levels, are authorized to direct said computer-readable code to over-write said original databases with said modified interactive databases based upon said authority level of said user, or said user level, and based upon said allowable impact associated with said authority level as compared to either said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results and with an amount or magnitude of allowable impact to said tradeoff measure, as measured by said primary tradeoff

measure, that different said users or said user levels, are authorized to direct said computer-readable code to over-write said original databases with said modified interactive databases based upon said authority level of said user, or said user level, and based upon said amount of allowable impact associated with said authority level as compared to either the second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff results and said second expected tradeoff results;

b. storing said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was an improvement to achieving said strategic objective goal and if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result did not violate said allowable tradeoff range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact;

c. not storing said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or if said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was a detriment to achieving said strategic objective goal or if said second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result violated said allowable tradeoff range or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact; and

d. storing or not storing, the choice of storing or not storing to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to said strategic objective goal and if said second expected tradeoff result or the result of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result is impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff

range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are impact neutral based upon said allowable strategic objective impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result is impact neutral based upon said allowable tradeoff impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level.

21. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein said computer-readable code is configured to:

a. load and store differing authority levels associated with an amount or magnitude of allowable impact to said strategic objective measure, as measured by said primary strategic objective measure, that different said users, or users levels, are authorized to direct said computer-readable code to over-write said original databases with said modified interactive databases based upon said authority level of said user, or said user level, and based upon said allowable impact associated with said authority level as compared to either said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results and with an amount or magnitude of allowable impact to said tradeoff measure, as measured by said primary tradeoff measure, that different said users or said user levels, are authorized to

direct said computer-readable code to over-write said original databases with said modified interactive databases based upon said authority level of said user, or said user level, and based upon said amount of allowable impact associated with said authority level as compared to either the second expected tradeoff result or said comparison between said first expected tradeoff results and said second expected tradeoff results;

b. storing said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results falls within said allowable strategic objective range and if said second expected tradeoff result or the result of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result did not violate said allowable tradeoff range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact;

c. not storing said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison

between said first expected results and said second expected results falls outside of said allowable strategic objective range or if said second expected tradeoff result or the result of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result violated said allowable tradeoff range or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results are not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable strategic objective impact or if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was not within said authority level of said user or said user level as defined by said allowable tradeoff impact; and

d. storing or not storing, the choice of storing or not storing to be determined by said entity, said modifications to said interactive databases into said original databases if said second expected results or said comparison between said first expected results and said second expected results was impact neutral to said allowable strategic objective range and if said second expected tradeoff result or the result of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result was impact neutral to said allowable tradeoff range and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected results or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected results and said second

expected results are impact neutral based upon said allowable strategic objective impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level and if the amount or magnitude of said second expected tradeoff result or the amount or magnitude of said comparison between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result are impact neutral based upon said allowable tradeoff impact associated with said authority level of said user or said user level.

22.(Amended) An apparatus as in one of claims 12 through 21 in which said code is configured to track said modifications to said original databases by each said user and said improvements and detriments to said strategic objective target values and/or said tradeoff limits are used to tangibly evaluate said user's performance and/or used to compensate and/or reward said user for supporting said strategic objective of said entity.

23. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program for comparing a forecast of a first expected strategic objective results using an existing database of work in a planning period and a forecast of a second expected strategic objective results of any planned changes to said existing database of work in said planning period, said first and second results being calculated in terms of a strategic objective measure and/or goal for a primary strategic objective in order to determine if said planned changes are supportive of and consistent with an entity's primary strategic

objective, comprising a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having:

- a. a primary strategic objective;
- b. a strategic objective measure and/or goal;
- c. said existing database of work, a new database of work containing work assumed completed over said planning period, an interactive database version of said original database and a modified interactive database that contains said planned changes to said original database and said modified interactive database is assumed completed over said planning period;
- d. said first expected strategic objective results, hereinafter first expected results, calculated from said strategic objective measure and/or goal and from said new database over said planning period;
- e. a second expected strategic objective results, hereinafter second expected results, calculated from said strategic objective measure and/or goal and from said modified interactive database over said planning period;
- f. a difference between said first expected strategic objective results and said second expected results; and
- g. a feature for modifying said original database with said modified interactive database said memory if said differences between said first expected results and said second expected results is an improvement to said strategic objective measure and/or said goal or if said second expected result is an improvement to said strategic objective measure and/or said goal.

24. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 23, wherein said forecasts comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having:

- a. a tradeoff threshold measure;
- b. a tradeoff threshold limit;
- c. a first expected tradeoff result as determined from said new database;
- d. a second expected tradeoff result as determined from said modified interactive databases;
- e. a difference between said first expected tradeoff result and said second expected tradeoff result; and
- f. a feature for modifying said original databases with said modified interactive database in said memory if said differences between said first expected results and said second expected results is an improvement to said strategic objective measure and/or said goal or if said second expected result is an improvement to said strategic objective measure and/or said goal and said differences between said first expected tradeoff results and said second expected tradeoff results are positive or if said second expected tradeoff result does not violate said tradeoff threshold limit.

25. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 23, wherein said forecast comprises a data

structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having:

- a. a range of acceptable strategic objective measures and/or goal as determined by said entity; and
- b. a feature for modifying said original databases with said modified interactive database in said memory if said differences between said first expected results and said second expected results are within said range of acceptable strategic measures and/or goal or if said second expected result is are within said range of the acceptable strategic measures and/or goal.

26. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 24, wherein said forecast comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having:

- a. a range of acceptable tradeoff threshold measures as determined by an entity; and
- b. a feature for modifying said original databases with said modified interactive database in said memory if said differences between said first expected results and said second expected results is an improvement to said strategic objective measure and/or goal or if said second expected result is an improvement to said strategic objective measure and/or said goal and if said differences between said first expected tradeoff results and said second expected tradeoff results or

said second expected tradeoff result is within said range of acceptable tradeoff threshold measures.

27. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 24, wherein said forecast comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having:

- a. a range of acceptable tradeoff threshold measures as determined by and entity;
- b. a range of acceptable strategic objective measures and/or goal as determined by an entity; and
- c. a feature for modifying said original databases with said modified interactive database in said memory if said differences between said first expected results and said second expected results or said second expected result is within said range of acceptable strategic objective measures and/or goal and if said differences between said first expected tradeoff results and said second expected tradeoff results or said second expected tradeoff result are within said range of acceptable tradeoff threshold measures.

28. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 23, wherein said forecast comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having:

- a. a user specific authority level and/or user level authority level, said authority level having associated with them an amount or magnitude of allowable strategic impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement; and
- b. a feature for modifying said original databases with said modified interactive database said memory if said second expected results or said differences between said first expected results and said second expected results are an improvement to said strategic objective measure and/or said goal and if said amount or magnitude of change to the strategic objective measure and/or goal is within said user's authority level.

29. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 24, wherein said forecast comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having:

- a. a user specific authority level and/or user level authority level, said authority level having associated with them an amount or magnitude of allowable strategic impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement and an amount or magnitude of tradeoff threshold measure impact said user or said user level has the authority to implement; and
- b. a feature for modifying said original databases with said modified interactive database if the impact of said changes are within said user's authority level and said second expected results or said

difference between said first expected results and said second expected results are an improvement to said strategic objective measure and/or said goal and if said differences between said first expected tradeoff results and said second expected tradeoff results or said second expected tradeoff result does not violate said tradeoff threshold limit.

30. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 25, wherein said forecast comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having;

- a. user specific authority level and/or user level authority level, said authority level having associated with them an amount or magnitude of allowable strategic impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement; and
- b. a feature for modifying said original databases with said modified interactive database if said changes are within said user's authority level and if said second expected result or said differences between said first expected results and said second expected results fall within said allowable strategic objective ranges.

31. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 26, wherein said forecast comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having:

- a. a user specific authority level and/or user level authority level, said authority level having associated with them an amount or magnitude of allowable strategic impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement and an amount or magnitude of tradeoff threshold measure impact said user or said user level has the authority to implement; and
- b. a feature for modifying said original databases with said modified interactive database if said changes are within said user's authority level and if said second expected results or said differences between said first expected results and said second expected results are an improvement to said strategic objective measure and/or said goal and if said tradeoff measure or said difference between said first tradeoff measure and said second tradeoff measure falls within said tradeoff threshold ranges.

32. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 27, wherein said forecast comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having:

- a. a user specific authority level and/or user level authority level, said authority level having associated with them an amount or magnitude of allowable strategic impact said user or said user level is authorized to implement and an amount or magnitude of tradeoff threshold measure impact said user or said user level has the authority to implement; and

b. a feature for modifying said original databases with said modified interactive database said second expected result or said differences between said first expected results and said second expected results fall within said allowable strategic objective ranges and if said differences between said first expected tradeoff results and said second expected tradeoff results or said second expected tradeoff result falls within said tradeoff threshold ranges.

33. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program as in one of claims 23 through 32 wherein said forecast comprises a data structure instantiating code segment that establishes a storage record in memory having said modifications to said original databases associated by each said user, and said improvements and detriments to said strategic objective target values and/or said tradeoff limits are used to tangibly evaluate said user's performance and/or used to compensate and/or reward said user for supporting said strategic objective of said entity.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)